

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01736 081338Z
ACTION AF-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-01 PA-01 /005 W
-----081351Z 123522 /47

O R 081240Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7299
INFO USUN MISSION NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1532
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1736

USIA FOR IAA, IOP/M
SECSTATE FOR AF/S
CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: RSA PRESS ON VORSTER MEETING WITH AMBASSADORS

SUMMARY: ALL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED FRONT PAGE REPORTS OF PREMIER
VORSTER'S THURSDAY CAPE TOWN MEETING WITH FIVE WESTERN ENVOYS.
REPORTS NOTED FOCUS WAS ON NAMIBIA, WITH VORSTER REITERATING SAG
POSITION ON TERRITORY BUT INDICATING HE WAS AMENABLE TO FURTHER
TALKS. LITTLE EDITORIAL REACTION THUS FAR (MORNING APRIL 8).
END SUMMARY.

1. JOHANNESBURG LIBERAL ENGLISH " RAND DAILY MAIL" REPORTED PM
"APPEARED TO BE UNYIELDING IN THE FACE OF DEMANDS BY THE BIG FIVE
WESTERN POWERS FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPOSED INDEPENDENCE PROCESS
FOR SWA... HE REITERATED HIS PREVIOUSLY STATED STAND AGAINST A
U.M. IMPOSED SETTLEMENT... BUT HE LEFT THE DOOR OPEN FOR FURTHER
TALKS." SAME PAPER QUOTED WINDHOEK REACTION TO CAPE TOWN MEETING.
A.H. DU PLESSIS, LEADER OF NATIONAL PARTY IN NAMIBIA AND WHITE
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DELEGATION IN TURNHALLE QUOTED SAYING ATTITUDE OF OTHER NATIONS
WOULD CHANGE WHEN A TURNHALLE GOVT " PROVED THE PUDDING." HERERO
LEADER CLEMENS KAPUUNO QUOTED SAYING ONVE TURNHALLE GOVT DEMONSTRATED
IT WAS NOT " PUPPET" OF SAG, WESTERN NATIONS WOULD ACCORD RECOGNITION

.
SAME PAPER EDITORIALIZED: " IT LOOKS DISTRESSINGLY AS THOUGH WE ARE
HEADED FOR A SERIOUS CONFRONTATION WITH THE WEST OVER SWA/N. IT IS

CLEAR FROM THE NOTE DELIVERED TO PM VORSTER, AND FROM HIS RESPONSE TO IT, THAT DESPITE THE TURNHALLE THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES HAS NOT NARROWED AND THAT A CLASH IS IMMINENT." PAPER SAID TURNHALLE FORMULA ACCEPTABLE TO VORSTER" BECAUSE IT IS COMPATIBLE WITH SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT" WHILE WEST PUSHING FOR ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE

ELECTIONS WITH SWAPO PARTICIPATION.

2. CONSERVATIVE JOHANNESBURG ENGLISH PAPER " THE CITIZEN" REPORTED PM'S RESPONSE TO NOTE "IS BEING INTERPRETED THAT RSA WILL CONTINUE WITH ITS PLANS FOR SWA AND THAT THE WESTERN POWERS' NOTE IS THEREFORE REJECTED." PAPER QUOTED " A LEADING RSA DIPLOMAT" SAYING " RSA IS NOT GOING TO BE INTIMIDATED ON SWA, BUT WE ARE WILLING TO TALK." PAPER EDITORIALIZED: " WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME GIVES THEM THE RIGHT TO PUSH THIS COUNTRY AROUND, AS IF IT WERE A TWO-CENT BANANA REPUBLIC? WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME DO THEY THINK THEY ARE ACHIEVING BY PLAYING THE COMMUNIST GAME OF TRYING TO FORCE RSA OUT OF SWA? DON'T THEY KNOW THE TURNHALLE SETTLEMENT IS THE RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ALL PEOPLES OF THE TERRITORY? THE WEST'S INTERFERENCE, IF RSA BOWED TO ITS FOOLISH PRESSURE, WOULD SIMPLY HAND OVER SWA TO COMMUNIST-BACKED SWAPO, IT'S NOT JUST MORALISTIC TERRORISM ON THE PART OF THE WEST. IT'S DOWNRIGHT MADNESS."

3. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER " DIE TRANSVALER" REPORTED PM " DID NOT REJECT THE NOTE OUTRIGHT, AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS COULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH."

4. SISTER AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPERS " DIE BERGER" OF CAPE TOWN AND " BEELD " OF

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JOHANNESBURG CARRIED IDENTICAL FRONT PAGE REPORTS SAYING " A NEW ROUND OF TALKS ON SWA COULD DEVELOP FROM YESTERDAY'S MEETING, WHICH APPARENTLY WENT WELL. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AGREE THAT RSA DID NOT SIMPLY LISTEN TO THE WESTERN STANDPOINT, BUT USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ARGUE HER OWN CASE. THEY SAY THE ONUS IS NOW ON THE WESTERN STATES TO DECIDE ON FURTHER TALKS, AND ON WHAT LEVEL."

5. DURBAN ENGLISH PAPER " NATAL MERCURY" SAID PM HAD BEEN "FIRM" WITH WESTERN ENVOYS. PAPER INTERPRETED PM'S STATEMENT TO MEAN HE WAS "NOT PREPARED TO COUNTENANCE U.M. INTERFERENCE OVER SWA" BUT WAS WILLING TO TALK AGAIN.

6. CAPE TOWN ENGLISH PAPER " CAPE TIMES" CARRIED STRAIGHT REPORT NOTING PM'S WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS " ON AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE SWA PROBLEM."

7. JOHANNESBURG BLACK-ORIENTED PAPER " THE WORLD" CARRIED NO REPORT APRIL 8 ON THE MEETING. HUGHES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS MEETINGS, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770474/aaaacmp.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2857751
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RSA PRESS ON VORSTER MEETING WITH AMBASSADORS SUMMARY: ALL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED FRONT PAGE REPORTS OF PREMIER VORSTER'S THURSDAY CAPE TOWN MEETING WITH FIVE WES
TAGS: SOPN, SF, (VORSTER, JOHN)
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1aff48a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009